

Johnson, Patrick

From: Janet Risovi <janetrisovi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 7:59 PM
To: District Applications
Subject: Redisctricting Committee
Attachments: JanetRisoviCommissionApplication.pdf

PJ- Did not print attachment -
See next page - 02/22/2013

Johnson, Patrick

From: Janet Risovi <janetrisovi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 8:18 PM
To: District Applications
Subject: Application with Signature
Attachments: JanetRisoviCommissionApplication.pdf

Please accept this as my final appication!

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application
by email to district.applications@austintexas.gov

by mail or in person to:
Office of the City Auditor
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130
Austin, TX 78701

*Application Period:
January 18, 2013
through
February 22, 2013*

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER
AT WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE**

You must submit an electronic application to district.applications@austintexas.gov
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013

DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
 - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
 - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
 - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
 - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
 - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Risovi Janet Lea
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1139632001

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

4810 Avenue F Austin TX 78751
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-925-0295

Contact Email Address: janetrisovi@hotmail.com

Spouse's Name: Risovi Kent Archer
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-22P02:24 RCVD

**APPLICATION FOR THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

2013

Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Conflicts of Interest

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

Within 5 years of the application date, have <i>you or your spouse</i>:	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Within 3 years of the application date, have <i>you or your spouse</i> been:	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
In the last City Election did <i>you or your spouse</i>:	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Personal Background Information

• **Ethnicity:** Mixed European: English/Scottish/Welsh, Italian/Sicilian/Greek/Albanian, and German

• **Race:** Caucasian

• **Gender:** ☐ Male ☒ Female

• **Age: (Please check your response)**

☐ 18 to 24 ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☒ 55 to 64 ☐ 65+

• **Education level: (Please check any that apply)**

☒ High School Diploma or GED

☐ Some College (major _____)

☐ Associate's Degree (major _____)

☒ Bachelor's Degree (major B.S. Ed. in Journalism, Secondary Ed.)

☒ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject M.A. in Human Resources)

Qualifications

Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

For past 35 years, I have served in adult education and training, and have analyzed, designed, developed, delivered and evaluated a wide variety of technical, staff development and policy compliance training programs. I have worked with committees and subject matter experts (when available) and at times solo, if necessary, to conduct performance gap and system analyses to determine whether training is appropriate to address a deficiency, and if so, then to analyze the audience, objectives, design and appropriate delivery method. I have designed, delivered and evaluated classroom instruction, video teleconference training, webinars, and web-based training.

I began my career with the state in 1985 as a technical trainer for the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation (now the Texas Department of Transportation [TxDOT]), designing and delivering workshops on early desktop computer word processing, spreadsheet and database applications. In the early 1990s, I moved into management and staff development training, where I continued to apply technical and analytical skills to produce and conduct training in managerial topics. (If your audience includes engineers, even "soft skills" training needs to be presented in a logical, analytical way). My educational background in journalism has influenced my work ethic and methods throughout my career -- I approach every assignment as an analytical exercise. As a Training Specialist, I have performed both quantitative and qualitative analyses, from the most basic training needs analyses to advanced evaluation and return-on-investment analyses, based on Kirkpatrick's Four-Level Evaluation Model and other tools and metrics. I have assembled reports and made presentations on training analyses, methodology and results.

Since the 1980s, I have participated in many statewide programs to design and deliver training on mandatory state or federal policies or initiatives, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Interviewing and Hiring (based on Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action), Cultural Diversity, and Sexual Harassment Prevention. Between 1996 and 1998, I was certified as a TxDOT Continuous Improvement facilitator and as a Franklin-Covey facilitator for four different Franklin-Covey workshops, including Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. I then traveled extensively for many years after that, conducting these and other TxDOT training workshops at more than 25 TxDOT sites statewide.

In 1998, I earned a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification, which I have kept current since then. From 1999 to 2001, while employed full-time with TxDOT, I earned a Master of Arts (with a 4.0 GPA) from the University of Texas in the Managing Human Resources Development Leadership (MHRDL) program. The title of my professional report was "The Consideration of Subjective Factors in the Public Sector Hiring Process," in which I analyzed the effect that strict hiring methods at TxDOT had on employee retention, morale, discrimination and organizational culture. For my final project, I traveled to Australia and worked with a small group from my UT cohort to interview, analyze and make recommendations for the organizational development and global expansion of a small mining company in Ballarat, Victoria.

In 2002, I launched a large project to acquire and customize an internal online learning management system (one of the first in a state agency) to deliver and track online learning for the (then) almost 15,000 employees of TxDOT. Although I am not a certified project manager, I used project management principles to develop a project management plan, including project scope, Gantt charts, work breakdown schedules, risk analysis, risk management, etc., and organized and led several committees, including technical staff in two states, management staff in Austin, and groups of pilot users statewide. Throughout the project, I collected, analyzed and reported to stakeholders on the project's progress and managed the budget (approximately \$250,000). The project was completed in about a year, on time and within budget. I continued to manage and administer the system until I left TxDOT in December 2010.

In my current position (since October 2011) as an E-learning Specialist for the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS) Adult Protective Services (APS) Center for Learning and Organizational Development (CLOE). I am a member of a team that continually revises and adapts training materials to comply with agency policy based on state policy rules in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and other related laws or directives. Along with other members of the CLOE team, I keep abreast of current agency policy and policy updates in order to recommend appropriate revisions to current training materials in order to provide APS caseworkers with the knowledge and skills needed to perform their duties according to current state policy. I recently worked with a CLOE team to develop specific step-by-step procedures to implement policy updates to APS curricula. These procedures specify how current training materials are reviewed, how revisions are recommended, who approves such recommendations, and how the revisions are implemented. I helped to determine the procedures and created the flowchart. (Hey, if that's not analytical, what is? Right?)

Humor is an important part of my work ethic. I could describe myself as a "policy wonk" (and many would agree) because I actually enjoy analyzing, dissecting and interpreting policy, but that makes me sound less than human. I'm not a robot -- when new policy is enacted, I am eager to know right away, from both a bureaucratic and a human aspect: What changed? Why did it change? How will the change affect what workers do now and what they will do in the future? How will it affect their clients, in either a positive or negative way? How will we communicate the policy to new or seasoned workers in the field? How will it affect their day-to-day job duties, as well as their overall outcomes? How does it affect the agency's mission, vision and values? Most importantly, how can we implement the changes in such a way as to continue to accomplish the mission, vision, goals and values of the agency?

To perform a variety of tasks analyses, I use just about any application available to me on my state-issued computer, including Microsoft Office 2010 products (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook) and SharePoint to sort, list, analyze and track approval for revisions. I was an early adopter of rapid e-learning tools, including ReadyGo, RoboDemo (now Captivate), and Articulate Presenter. I currently use Captivate and other Adobe Creative Suite products to develop online training at DFPS, and upload and manage content on the agency's MOODLE learning management system.

I believe that the analytical and technical skills I have acquired over the past three decades will serve this commission very well as it determines a fair, logical and transparent method to create voting districts. I have been proud to serve as a state employee, believe in the missions of both major agencies I have served, and insist on transparency and accountability from myself and my coworkers. After all, I am both a servant as well as a citizen of the State of Texas. I am just as passionate about the mission and business of the City of Austin.

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please describe your ability to be impartial.

Maintaining and demonstrating impartiality is a requirement for any adult educator, especially in public service. My role as a Training Specialist (or Employee Development Specialist) is more of a facilitator than an instructor. I work with individuals from many different backgrounds and with many different values, political opinions, religious affiliations and cultures. My job is to find common ground with the people that I serve, in order to facilitate their learning and to effectively communicate information that they need in order to perform their job duties to the best of their ability. Our common ground is based on the mission, vision and values of the organization. When I facilitate training, I provide the framework and the ground rules within which training participants can express individuality, then I can step back and allow the learning to take place. My job is to create a safe atmosphere in which participants feel comfortable enough to express concerns, ask questions, explore concepts, share ideas, and develop their potential, within the context of the mission at hand.

To be impartial requires a great deal of transcendence and personal introspection. Like any noble pursuit, impartiality is a journey, not a destination. It is a goal to continually strive toward and takes a lifetime to achieve, if ever; therefore, anyone who says he or she is truly impartial may be kidding themselves or others. I have conducted many, many classes and workshops that include cultural diversity and civil rights issues. First, I try to help participants to realize that everyone has biases and prejudices and then help them to examine and evaluate their own beliefs. My job as a facilitator is to communicate to participants what law or policy says that they must do or must not do (and why) and the consequences of specific action or inaction. It's also my job to model positive behavior; however, I draw the line at telling adults what they should think or believe – I believe it would be arrogant to do so and risks alienating the very people I may need to reach.

I believe that I demonstrate impartiality by giving adults enough accurate information to make their own decisions, allowing them to make those decisions, and then respecting those decisions (along with the consequences). Achieving cooperation or consensus also involves quite a bit of "active listening," which (although maybe a cliché) nevertheless is critical to success. Number 5 of Steven Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" is "Seek first to understand; then to be understood." As a Seven Habits facilitator at TxDOT during the 1990s, I taught Covey's concept of empathetic listening – letting the other person know that you hear and that you recognize their opinions or feelings (whether or not you agree). Through this technique, we increase our chance of gaining trust in order to "synergize" (combine strengths toward positive teamwork) and achieve a "win-win" (mutually beneficial) outcome. This all sounds pretty academic until you actually put it to use on a committee or workgroup. These skills have helped me more recently at DFPS to conduct workshops in "Knowing Who You Are," a Casey Family Program which contains somewhat controversial concepts about race and ethnic identity. Empathetic listening has helped me to accomplish the objectives of this training and to avoid misunderstandings.

When I earned my undergraduate degree in Journalism in the 1970s, they still taught the inverted pyramid and the Who-What-When-Where-Why-How style of reporting. We were taught to separate "news" from "opinion." And even though that strict interpretation of "journalism" no longer really exists, I still remember my early training, so I still attempt to maintain objectivity by analyzing events logically. When I read or hear "news," I try to analyze the facts as presented while considering the source of the information. (Is there any truly "impartial" source of information?) And, when I communicate information to others, I try to let the audience know if it's factual (and if so, the basis of those facts) or if it's strictly my opinion or personal interpretation of fact. It takes a lot of transcendence and humility to distinguish between what's presumed to be fact and what's assumed to be opinion (especially one's own).

Skepticism comes somewhat naturally to me, so I apply that skepticism when I look for news and information. In an effort to avoid the polarity and ideology that seems to permeate the media these days, I try to gather information from a variety of sources. Every day, I seek information from different angles, from a variety of both "old" and "new" media, and from both "left" and "right" leaning sources. I have subscribed to (and read) the local daily newspaper (AmStat) for as long as I've lived in Austin; I listen to National Public Radio almost every day; I watch local, national network and cable network television news; I subscribe to a handful of consumer and special interest magazines; and I read news feeds, blogs and e-zines via the Internet on my computer and iPhone through several local and national news apps and news aggregators. I do not consider any particular source the "authority." I look for patterns in the reports.

Like the late comedian George Carlin, I grew up in a somewhat liberal Catholic parish (in Dallas) that taught us to question what we were told and so consequently, I eventually became to identify more with agnosticism than with any organized religion. I left Catholic school after the 10th grade and finished the last two years of high school at what was then the brand-new Dallas Skyline Career Development Center. I'll always be grateful that the Dallas ISD decided to launch that experiment at that time – I believe that I benefited greatly. I'm also skeptical about politics, so I do not claim membership in any political party and therefore vote independently. I don't believe in astrology; however, I embrace the characteristics of my birth sign, Libra, by seeking balance in my beliefs and seeking more than one side of every argument. I don't wear my beliefs on my sleeve; I try to listen more than talk.

Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.

I was drawn to central Texas from Dallas because I longed for an active outdoor life and loved the music that was coming out of Austin in the early 1970s. After graduating from (the then new) Dallas Skyline High School in the summer of 1973, I rode from Dallas to Dripping Springs in a station wagon full of teenagers to attend Willie Nelson's first July 4th picnic. We were not that familiar with Willie yet – we came down to see Leon Russell! Later that fall, several of my friends enrolled in the University of Texas, but a handful of us chose Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. During the next 4 and 1/2 years, I managed to earn a Bachelor's degree while "minorning" in being a music groupie. Even though I am not a musician and cannot even carry a tune vocally, I met and rubbed elbows with countless musicians (Willie Nelson, George Strait, Gatemouth Brown, Bugs Henderson, Chris Cross, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Austin Lounge Lizards, to name only a few) in both San Marcos and in Austin. I couldn't sing, but I could dance! On weekends, I hung out in San Marcos at Cheatham Street Warehouse (run by Kent Finlay) or at the Too Bitter saloon downtown, along with my fellow journalism major and music-lover Casey Monahan. I sometimes drove with friends out to Luckenbach or to Austin to the Armadillo, Antone's, Soap Creek Saloon, Castle Creek, the Broken Spoke or other venues. I also devoured the outdoor life by hiking, camping and swimming at just about every park, creek, river or stream that I could get to around the area (including Hippie Hollow). During my senior year at SWT, in the Summer of 1977, I commuted daily to Austin to work as a paid intern at KTBC-TV (Channel 7) on 10th & Brazos. By working both news and features, I learned to hone my investigative skills and learned a great deal about Austin culture and politics from reporters like Joe Roddy, Dick Ellis, George Waltrip, Paul Alexander and David N. Smith. I learned where to eat BBQ, steak and Mexican food, at some restaurants that still exist today (like Cisco's, the Hofbrau, Iron Works and Malt's El Rancho) and others that are just memories, like the Night Hawk on Congress and the Station on North Lamar.

After graduating from SWT, I moved to Austin for good in 1978 and (after working as a waitress at the Station during the summer!) accepted a position in the fall as Journalism Advisor at Reagan High School. Reagan was the only "naturally integrated" school district in Austin at the time, so I was fortunate to work with a diverse population of students, teachers and administrators and from them, learned even more about the makeup of Austin than I had learned during the previous summer at KTBC. I coordinated with local news media, including the Austin American Statesman, the Austin Villager newspaper, and TV and radio stations, to involve students – especially Black and Hispanic students – in programs, activities and internships to promote student education in writing and journalism. During this time, I continued to take in local music (although not as often as before I worked full-time) at venues like Liberty Lunch, Continental Club, Saxon Pub, Victory Grill, the Aus-Tex Lounge, Austin City Limits tapings, and others. (Sixth Street was just starting to become a destination in and of itself.) I also continued to indulge my love for the outdoors through active membership in the local Sierra Club (hiking, biking, camping and skiing) and through volunteer work at parks including the Wild Basin, Colorado Bend State Park (where I had camped years earlier near Gorman Falls, when it had been on private property), Hamilton's Pool, and Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. I learned to windsurf (board sail) and scuba dive in Lake Travis.

After teaching high school for five years, I took about a year off to do some out-of-state traveling, including five months in Hawaii, and returned to Austin just in time to experience TWO large snowfalls, during the winter of 1984-1985. I began to work full-time in Austin at the "Highway Department" (now TxDOT) as a Travel Counselor in February 1985, providing local and state travel and tourist info to visitors at the State Capitol. Later that year, I moved into a position as a technical trainer at TxDOT (which I explained on page 5). I was fortunate to be there just in time to participate as the agency underwent a complete face lift when the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Civil Rights Acts of 1991 were passed, and Ann Richards was elected governor. In 1991, the agency changed names (from the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation to the Texas Department of Transportation) and over the next few years, through Affirmative Action and recruiting and training initiatives, became a much more diverse workforce that more closely resembled the diversity of the population of Texas. (You might not know that if you look at the agency today – at the risk of sounding political, I think the agency has gone backward in that respect since the 90s. I can say that now because I no longer work there – neither do many of the people I once worked with.)

For the first 15 years after I moved to Austin 1978, I lived in rental houses and apartments (including a UT co-op on Pearl Street and a 19th century home with a basement on 32nd Street that now has historic designation), primarily in Central, Northeast, and North Central Austin. In 1993, I moved into the house I currently own in Hyde Park. Hyde Park (which I sometimes jokingly refer to as "Hype Park") sometimes seems both insular and self-righteous. The neighborhood is used to wielding power and being heard, which is both good and bad – good when it has a positive effect on the city, but bad when it sometimes ignores the needs of the rest of the city. I appreciate the history and tradition of HP, but I'm not always pleased with the sometimes selfish attitudes of some of the neighbors south of 45th Street. My husband and I live north of 45th Street and have a very tight-knit group of neighbors in about a 3-block radius. For many years, we have delivered the neighborhood newsletter to about several blocks on Avenue F and I serve as Neighborhood Watch block captain. I appreciate the central location of HP because of the vantage point it gives me to the rest of the city – it's a short walk, drive, bike ride or bus trip to many other neighborhoods in all directions. I admit that I don't ride my bikes as often as I used to, but at some time or another I have ridden from my house on Avenue F to downtown, to east Austin, to north Austin, and even up to Mt. Bonnell Drive. Nowadays, I still love to walk or bike around Hyde Park, or the Lady Bird Lake Hike & Bike Trail (especially the path that crosses under I-35 into East Austin), or the Shoal Creek trail, the Veloway, and other trails in and around the city. My husband and I are members of the YMCA and work out at the Town Lake, East Communities, and the new North Austin branches. My favorite gym activity is Zumba, which attracts a very diverse crowd (although mostly women).

My husband and I continue to participate in city events, to the best of our abilities, based on our current work schedules and energy levels – We know we can't keep up with the younger crowd, so we try to be realistic. About 15-20 years ago, we would take time off from work to attend SXSW (my husband went to Reagan H.S. with Roland Swenson), or to participate in the MS150 or other long-distance bike rides. Now we try to choose either "old Austin" or "new Austin" activities to do every few weeks or so. Sometimes we visit a nightclub or attend a concert or festival, or maybe try a new restaurant, or rent water bikes or try zip lining. We attended opening night at the new ACL studio in 2011 and attend the ACL outdoor fest in the fall about every other year. One year, we bought season tickets to the Paramount; another year, we bought a concert series at One World Theater – admittedly geared toward Boomers! (Sigh.) Last year, we attended the Montower Comedy Festival and the year before, the grand opening of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy. We did not buy tickets to the F1 race, but we did go downtown to take advantage of some of the free concerts and to meet visitors. We also enjoy attending events at Fiesta Gardens (like the Celt Fest or Pachanga Fest) or at Auditorium Shores or other locations, just to make sure we hit something every so often. We like to try new restaurants, but also support established places like Threadgill's, Hyde Park Bar & Grill, Hill's Cafe (thank goodness it was saved!), Jovita's (sad story there), Hoover's, Stubbs', El Mercado, Nuevo Leon, Ruby's BBQ, and Ross's Cafe (where some friends used to play in their band). We look for events and opportunities to get out of our neighborhood as often as possible so we can experience the variety of food, music and cultures represented in Austin. Sometimes we volunteer for events like IT's My Park Day or the Texas Roundup. My husband and I try to eat locally grown food as much as possible, by shopping at the Triangle, Mueller and Highland Mall Farmers' Markets; subscribing to Greening; and eating at locally owned restaurants. We're not perfect or fanatics about it, but for the most part, we usually avoid processed foods and national chain restaurants and opt for more tasty and healthy choices, which is pretty easy to do in Austin!

APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

If you read everything on the previous pages, thank you. I hope it was not too much, and that it helps you to decide whether I'd be an asset to this commission. The three questions seem interrelated: Being analytical has helped me to be impartial, which has helped me to appreciate diversity. These are tough questions to answer briefly, without giving you my whole life story, but the questions inspired me to reflect on the last 35 years. And just so you know, I'm not nearly as verbose in person as I have been on this application!

I feel like I've led a "Forrest Gump-like" existence in Austin for 35 years -- I was here and there, and may appear in the background of photos from "the day," but I rarely took center stage. I have often volunteered to help, for example, serve food at El Buen Samaritano, or assist at the Convention Center where Hurricane Katrina victims were temporarily housed, and other civic or charitable events, but usually not as a leader or organizer. I participated in the charettes organized by Councilmember Beverly Griffith in the late 1990s for the Neighbors of Triangle Park to design a development plan that addressed the concerns of the neighbors; I also delivered hundreds of flyers in the neighborhood. I even "accidentally" appeared on camera during the local news one evening when I spoke openly at a NTP meeting. Since I was only a member, and not a leader, it was unusual for me to appear on camera.

About four years ago, I worked with a group of neighbors to try to obtain historic designation for Hegman Subdivision, the northern part of Hyde Park (between 45th and 51st streets). Along with my neighbors, I hosted and participated in meetings, gathered research, assembled data, designed a flyer, contacted home owners, collected signatures, and helped draft design standards. We were not successful in our efforts to obtain the designation; however, I think our efforts were nevertheless beneficial and by drawing our neighborhood closer together. In the meantime, Hyde Park became a local historic district, so the neighbors may revisit the effort to obtain the designation for Hegman in the near future.

More recently, in 2011, I became a certified member of the Austin Tour Guide Association (which includes competency in Austin history, geography and current events) and have served as an Austin tour guide for a few local tours, and as a volunteer on the trolley shuttling visitors around for Austin Museum Day. I am also a certified "bat docent" for Bat Conservation International, and during summer evenings, hang out at the Congress Avenue (Ann Richards) Bridge wearing a t-shirt that says "Ask me about the bats!" on the back; I also worked with BCI during the Bat Fest last year.

I've also recently received some new facilitation certifications in my current position at DFPS. In addition to certification in "Knowing Who You Are," which I mentioned earlier, I also recently became certified to facilitate "Verbal Defense and Influence," a comprehensive communication workshop designed to teach people who have direct contact with the public (like police officers and social caseworkers) how to gain cooperation and reduce hostility and violence by treating all people with dignity and respect.

Tambien, puedo leer y comprender el Espanol. No hablo el Espanol todo los dias, pero lo he sabido desde tenia ocho anos. En el colegio, el Espanol era el subespecialidad del titulo universitario. (In case that isn't 100% accurate, I can read and understand quite a bit of Spanish, although I don't speak it every day. I began learning it when I was about 8 years old, minored in Spanish as an undergraduate, and was certified to teach it, although I never did, except as a tutor.)

It may sound like my husband and I don't get out of town much, but we do manage to travel both domestically and abroad as often as possible. Please feel free to check out my profile and connections on LinkedIn.com! I have a Facebook account, too, but there's more info about me on LinkedIn.

I hope you will consider me for the commission. I feel like I have not contributed a very significant amount of time and effort to this community throughout the years, so it seems like it may be "my turn," so to speak, to be of service. I have excellent work skills -- writing, editing, computer business applications, public speaking, and basic accounting. I am familiar with most areas of Austin, and have experienced its evolution and development for over 35 years. I'm an enthusiastic advocate of Austin's traditions, activities and environment. My husband and I don't spend too much time whining about what Austin "used to be." We love the joke that's told on KUT, which, paraphrased is: "You know that guy who told you Austin was cool two years before YOU got here? Well, he moved to Dallas last week!"

Many people (friends and family) in Dallas have asked me, "Why haven't you (Austin) gone to single-member districts before now?" For the past several years, I've said, "Back off! Because we're weird!" Now I have to say, "We're doing it now, because it's time for us to do it. Respect our culture like we respect yours." For example, Margaritas were supposedly created in Dallas, but the concoction was definitely perfected in Austin!

DISCLAIMER

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

Janet Risovi

Signature of Applicant

2/21/13

Date

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

GLOSSARY

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
 - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
 - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
 - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
 - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
 - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

